MARVEL

22

LGY#986

KELLY
BRADSHAW
GRACIA

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

RATED T

PETER PARKER HAS THE PROPORTIONAL SPEED, STRENGTH, AND AGILITY OF A SPIDER, ADHESIVE FINGERTIPS AND TOES, AND THE UNIQUE PRECOGNITIVE AWARENESS OF DANGER CALLED "SPIDER-SENSE"! AFTER THE TRAGIC DEATH OF HIS UNCLE BEN, PETER PARKER UNDERSTOOD THAT WITH GREAT POWER THERE MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY. HE BECAME THE CRIMEFIGHTING SUPER HERO CALLED...

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

PREVIOUSLY

After a brutal fight, the strange and powerful creature HELLGATE said the words "get stronger" and punched Peter Parker into space. Peter was found by amoral xenobiologist XANTO STARBLOOD. After freeing Xanto's captive subjects, Peter, ROCKET RACCOON, RAELITH, GLITCH, NIAL, AND SYMBIE are on their way to Earth--but they may not like what they'll find. Thanks to Peter's clone BEN REILLY, who stepped into Peter's shoes while he was gone, the pieces of Peter's life aren't exactly where he left them. AUNT MAY is despondent over "Peter's" radio silence, there was a mysterious accident at Peter's lab at Rand Industries, and NORMAN OSBORN took on the role of Spider-Man. He saved many lives but is still dealing with the consequences of his fight against Hobgoblin and a gang of Goblin-Slayer robots...

PETER PARKER

RAELITH THE WRETCHED

GLITCH

MAIRA OSMANI-MILTON

NORMAN OSBORN

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TIP TAP TAP TAP

TIP TAP TAP TIP

LAST CHANCE, WEBS.

I KNOW A JOINT ON EUROPA THAT'LL MAKE YOU FORGET *THAT DUMP* EVER EXISTED.

IS IT WEIRD THAT PART OF ME WANTS TO SEE IF THAT'S *TRUE?*

TIP TAP TAP TIP

NAH. YER A *FICKLE HUMAN.* VERY ON-BRAND.

THOUGH I WILL SAY...

CONSIDERING THE *MAJORITY* OF Y'R TOILET SPECIES, YOU DON'T TOTALLY SUCK.

TAP--

THANKS, *ROCKET.* I'LL MISS YOU TOO.

WASN'T REALLY A COMPLIMENT, BUT *WHATEVER.*

"SOME CAUSE HAPPINESS *WHEREVER* THEY GO...

"...OTHERS, *WHENEVER* THEY GO."

PAGE 197 OF *THE QUOTABLE XANTO STARBLOOD.*

IGNORE HIM, PETER. HE'S BEEN IN A MOOD SINCE YOU LOCKED HIM UP.

AS WOULD ANY GENIUS BE, LEFT WITH LESSER LIFE-FORMS LACKING APPRECIATION FOR *JOCULAR* WORDPLAY.

THANKS FOR THE FREEDOM AND THE ADVENTURES AND WHAT'S LEFT OF THE SHIP.

MY PLEASURE, *NIAL.* HOPE YOU'LL COME VISIT.

NAH. MY HOME'S THE *STARS,* MAN...

...AND YOUR PLANET LOOKS LIKE MY GRANDMA'S *EYEBALL* AFTER SHE CAUGHT A PARASITE.

I'LL MISS YOU LEAST OF ALL, *XANTO.*

PIFFLE. TEN MINUTES IN THAT INTELLECTUAL *DESERT* YOU CALL AMERICA AND YOU'LL *BEG* FOR MY RETURN.

HEH. GOOD LUCK IN *SPACE PRISON.*

GOOD LUCK *KEEPING* ME THERE.

AND AGAIN... *DESTROY* THE *BOOST BOX.*

FIND THE STRENGTH YOU SEEK *ELSEWHERE.*

...

YOU'D BE ALL RIGHT IF YOU WEREN'T SO EVIL, XANTO.

HA HA! VALIDATION! I TOLD YOU I WAS HIS *FAVORITE!*

HE'S SENDING YOU TO THE GALACTIC TRIBUNAL TO BE JUDGED FOR, LIKE, CRIMES AGAINST *EVERYONE.*

THE JUDICIARY IS HIS *LOVE LANGUAGE!*

FIFTEEN MINUTES F'R *BROODING,* THEN YOU AN' YOUR IDIOT *ENTOURAGE* ARE GOIN' HOME.

YEAH.

WHEN I START COUNTING OFF EXACTLY HOW LONG I'VE BEEN ***GONE***, I FEEL MY ***HEART*** RACE.

LITERALLY ***EVERYTHING*** COULD BE DIFFERENT... OR NOTHING... BUT ***PROBABLY*** EVERYTHING.

SINCE I DON'T WANT MY FIRST FIVE MINUTES ON EARTH TO TURN INTO A ***PANIC ATTACK***, I BREATHE DEEP AND LET IN THE SMELLS OF THE CITY.

OLD OIL AND SUN-BLEACHED CONCRETE AND CAR EXHAUST. MYSTERY ***SUBWAY TUNNEL STEAM.***

BAKERIES CRANKING OUT ***BIALYS. PIZZERIAS*** AND THE ***INDIAN*** PLACE WE GET FROM WHEN SHE DOESN'T FEEL LIKE COOKING...

THE DAMP OF HER APARTMENT HALLWAY THAT'S ***PROBABLY*** NOT MOLD BUT WE ***WORRY*** ABOUT IT ANYWAY AND I'M TEN FEET AWAY FROM ***WARMTH*** WHERE THE AIR IS LIKE A ***HAND-KNIT BLANKET*** TOUCHED WITH ***CINNAMON*** AND THAT PERFUME SHE'S STUCK WITH SINCE I WAS A KID AND I HAVE TO REMEMBER TO USE THE ***HIDE-A-KEY*** AND ***NOT*** TO BREAK THE DOOR OFF ITS HINGES BECAUSE I'VE BEEN GONE FOR SO LONG AND I NEED TO SEE--

MAY!

MOVE
Kitchen
MOVE

I'M...

...BACK...?

Books

Bath

MAY?

I'M ALLOWING MYSELF EXACTLY ***TEN SECONDS*** TO PANIC.

Comic Books

Dishes

IT... IT'S THE MOST ***BEAUTIFUL*** CITY I'VE EVER SEEN.

COMING FROM SOMEONE WHO HAS SEEN AT LEAST ***THREE*** CITIES, HIGH PRAISE.

I KNOW.

HOW DOES IT COMPARE TO THE PLACES *YOU* HAVE BEEN?

AN *OBJECTIVE* RANKING SYSTEM WOULD PLACE IT TWO HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE THOUSAND THIRTY-FOURTH PLACE.

IS THAT GOOD? THAT *SOUNDS* VERY GOOD.

SOME DAYS, I WONDER WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO VIOLENTLY *REMOVE* ALL OF MY HIGHER FUNCTIONING CIRCUITRY TO SEE THE UNIVERSE AS YOU DO.

=SNIFF= I CAN JUST *TELL* YOU.

WHEN DO YOU THINK WE WILL HAVE THE *ICE CREAM?*

WHAMM

SHE'S NOT *HERE.*

HER *STUFF* IS GONE AND SOMEONE *ELSE'S* STUFF IS THERE AND I DON'T HAVE A *PHONE* AND I'M *FREAKING* OUT...

PETER...

I WAS GONE *TOO* LONG. SO MUCH COULD HAVE *HAPPENED--*

PETER...

WHAT IF *SHE'S--?*

PETER. YOU CAN WORRY ABOUT A FUTURE THAT MAY NOT *BE...* OR STEADY YOURSELF AND TELL US WHERE TO LOOK *NEXT.*

...

OKAY... ALL RIGHT...

GLITCH, CAN YOU GET US ACROSS TOWN... LIKE, *VERY* QUICKLY?

I CANNOT IMAGINE *ANYTHING* ELSE THAT I WOULD RATHER DO.

GLACCH!

HELLO. YOU HAVE REACHED THE CELL PHONE OF MAY PARKER.

MAY

Addressed to the Preposterous Peter Parker

PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE AT THE BEEP...

VIGILANTE EVADES POLICE!

UNLESS YOU'RE A **TELEMARKETER**, IN WHICH CASE I'D KINDLY ASK THAT YOU **RETHINK** YOUR LIFE CHOICES AND **REMOVE** ME FROM YOUR CALL LISTS.

THANK YOU.

BEN...?

UNCLE "BEN"?

VERY MUCH **NO.**

PETER...? YOU LOOK VERY ANGRY. WHAT DO THESE MESSAGES SAY...?

=SNIFF=

YOU GUYS MIND COMING ***ONE MORE*** PLACE WITH ME?

THEN WE CAN GET ***ICE CREAM***, RAE. PROMISE.

I'M JUST GONNA ***CHANGE*** REAL QUICK.

PARK AVENUE EAST. THE VERY, VERY NICE PART.

"NO CHANGE." THAT'S ALL THEY SAID?

YOU'VE ONLY BEEN GONE FOR, LIKE, FORTY-FIVE MINUTES, DOCTOR OSMANI-MILTON.

"NO CHANGE" IS A COMFORT CONSIDERING THE LIKELY OUTCOMES OF THE ACCIDENT--

ASTRID. CAN WE STICK WITH NAIVE OPTIMISM FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER HOUR OR SO? PLEASE?

SUIT YOURSELF. I'D RATHER BE SURPRISED THAN DISAPPOINTED.

YOU SHOULD TRY TO GET SOME SLEEP. EVEN JUST AN HOUR. I'LL BE OKAY HERE--

I'D JUST STARE AT THE CEILING. UNTIL I KNOW THAT BRIAN'S STABLE, I NEED TO--

SLAMM

I'LL BE THERE TO RELIEVE YOU IN THIRTY. THANKS, ASTRID.

DID YOU DROP OUT OF SCHOOL AND FORGET TO TELL ME? AGAIN?

THE THERAPIST SAID NOT TO DO PASSIVE AGGRESSIVE.

SHE ALSO SAID THAT RULES AND STRUCTURE WILL KEEP US BOTH SANE, SO SCREW HER, I GUESS?

SORRY.

YOU AREN'T.

NO. I WAS BEING *NICE* AND HOPING YOU'D LET ME EAT.

DAMN IT, *KEN.* DID IT EVEN *OCCUR* TO YOU THAT IT'S WEIRD THAT I AM AT HOME ON A WORKDAY?

YOU'RE THE *BOSS.* YOU CAN #$%& AROUND WHENEVER YOU WANT--

THERE WAS AN *ACCIDENT!* ONE OF MY PEOPLE WAS BADLY INJURED!

YOU AREN'T THE ONLY HUMAN ON EARTH WHO'S--!

RATTLE RATTLE

=SIGH=

"SAY WHAT YOU MEAN, BUT DON'T *BE* MEAN."

MAYBE LATER YOU'LL FEEL MORE LIKE A PERSON AND WE CAN TALK ABOUT WHERE YOU WERE ALL NIGHT.

YUP. SCHEDULE THAT RIGHT IN.

I HAVE TIME AFTER *"SUFFERING IN SILENCE."*

A SQUAT SOMEWHERE ON THE WEST SIDE...

THE REALLY NOT-NICE-AT-ALL PART.

OOH! HERE'S ONE. THREE BEDROOMS IN THE VILLAGE.

WHAT DO WE NEED THREE BEDROOMS FOR?

SLEEPING, GUEST ROOM, MASK ROOM.

YOU GET A WHOLE ROOM FOR MASKS?!

YOU'D PREFER SOME BASIC CHICK WHO COLLECTS SHOES AND KNOCKOFF LOUIS V'S?

AND BIG, DUMB CUPS. LOVE THOSE FOR YOU.

GONNA MISS THIS PLACE THOUGH. IT'S DRAFTY AND SMELLS LIKE CHEMICALS, BUT I KNOW ALL THE RATS BY NAME AND--

AND THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR FIRST PLACE.

'ZACTLY. BUT IF YOUR SECOND PLACE HAS A ROOF-TOP POOL--

WHAT IS IT?

WHAT'S WRONG, BEN?

PETER...

HE'S BACK.

Addressed to the Preposterous Peter Parker,

Hey loser! Hope this letter finds you...well... period. Welcome home!

If you're reading this, it means my "Clone-Sense" was right and you're not dead. Congrats!

WHAT DID YOU DO?!

Saw your Hellgate fight and the "Tele-punch." BTW--OUCH!

(Yes, I was stalking you since your stakeout with Black Cat. No, I didn't help. Not sorry about any of it.)

DIDN'T READ MY NOTE--? OOF!

WHERE'S AUNT MAY?!

I knew in my bones you weren't dead--see the aforementioned Clone-Sense™--but watching you disappear gave me an idea...

KRUNCH!

Why not help out my "big brother" and keep "Peter Parker" alive and well for a few days?

You apparently asked NORMAN OSBORN to strap on the webs... weird, but, sure.

Needless to say... you were gone for more than a few days.

HOLD ON, BEN-- AAAH!

PARDON THE INTRUSION, MISS, BUT WE WERE ASKED TO KEEP YOU FROM THIS... COLLECTION...

CAN'T HAVE YOU DISRUPTING THE BARBARISM.

WAIT... LET ME FIGHT TOO...

YOU FOUND THE TUNA IN THE AC VENT, DIDN'T YOU?

I think you know that for a long time, I thought I was missing something by not having your life.

Well, now I have it, and frankly...?

Complicated. Overrated. Boring.

WHERE IS SHE, BEN?!

CHILL, MAN! SHE'S FINE--!

Except for the science. The science is my jam--but it's the one part you keep screwing up playing Spider-Man!

So I kept up with that and just ignored the rest.

Unfortunately, I had to back off from that too because I realized you're gonna get credit for my work. #CloneLife, LOL!

YOU SEEM NICE. I'M GLAD PETER MADE NEW FRIENDS...

...BUT I JUST COUNTED THAT MONEY.

WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY LIFE?!

Everything's pretty much as you left it...with a few surprises. Heh.

Hope you had a nice trip. See you next fall!

--Ben Reilly

EEEEEEENOUGH!!!

WHOULFF!

BABE, WATCH WHERE YOU POINT THAT THING--

I DID.

WHAT?

SIGH I LOVE YOU, YOU IDIOT. TRY NOT TO DO ANYTHING STUPID FOR LIKE THIRTY SECONDS...?

PETER, I KNOW YOU'RE MAD, AND THIS ISN'T GOING TO FIX THAT, BUT--

NO. HE PUSHED IT TOO FAR THIS TIME, JANINE. I'M--

YOUR AUNT IS OKAY!

SHE MOVED IN WITH HER BOYFRIEND... RICARDO, RIGHT?

SORRY, I READ SOME OF HER LETTERS. SHE HAS GREAT HANDWRITING.

YEAH... SHE DOES.

WH-WHAT DID BEN SAY TO HER... AS ME?

NOTHING. LITERALLY NOTHING. HE DIDN'T SPEAK TO HER. HE BARELY SPOKE TO ANY OF YOUR PEOPLE.

IT WAS A JERK MOVE, AND I'M SURE PEOPLE TOOK IT PERSONAL, BUT...

...NOT MAY.

MAY ***NEVER*** GAVE UP ON YOU.

ONCE I CLEAN UP WHATEVER WRECKAGE YOU LEFT BEHIND...

...YOU'LL WANT TO BE FAR AWAY, BEN.

SURE, TOUGH GUY. WHATEVER. BUT KEEP THIS IN MIND WHILE YOU'RE PLOTTING SWEET REVENGE...

IF YOUR LIFE "FELL APART" BECAUSE I DIDN'T RETURN A FEW CALLS...

...MAYBE WHATEVER YOU BUILT WASN'T AS ***STRONG*** AS YOU THOUGHT IT WAS.

PETER--?

RAE!

PETER... SORRY...I'LL DO BETTER NEXT TIME...

HER VITALS ARE AT ALARMING LEVELS. IT'S ATMOSPHERIC...

BY CHANCE, DO YOU HAVE A HOSPITAL FOR EXTRATERRESTRIALS?

"MAIRA, IT'S NORMAN...

"HOPEFULLY THIS WENT RIGHT TO VOICEMAIL BECAUSE YOU'RE RUNNING YOUR TECH EMPIRE AND NOT AVOIDING ME."

WHICH WOULD BE UNDERSTANDABLE GIVEN THE NEWS ABOUT THE OSCORP ATTACK AND... HEH...

...MY BRIEF TENURE AS SPIDER-MAN.

IF YOU CARE TO HEAR IT, I CAN EXPLAIN. IF YOU DO NOT... THAT'S LIKELY VERY HEALTHY.

EITHER WAY, I'D LIKE TO CONTINUE OUR EARLIER CONVERSATION.

ABOUT YOUR SON.

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT A LOT. MORTALITY... YOUTH.

LET ME KNOW...I WILL GLADLY MAKE MYSELF AVAILABLE.

GOODBYE.

MUSCULOSKELETAL STRUCTURES LOSING INTEGRITY.

STRENGTH, HEALING FACTOR, DECREASED BY 12%

DATA INDICATES ONSET OF CELLULAR DEGENERATION SICKNESS.

BDEET

CALL MILES MORALES.

SLOW YOUR ROLL! YOU CAN'T JUST *HACK* THE MOST *IMPENETRABLE* SECURITY IN THE WORLD...

...LAND ON *OUR ROOF* UNINVITED...

...AND EXPECT US TO LET YOU IN JUST BECAUSE *"SPIDER-MAN"* TOLD YOU WE'RE HIS PERSONAL URGENT CARE!

'ZACTLY! AN' WHAT THE HECK'S *THAT THING* ANYWAY--?

ACHOOLFF

THIS THING IS AN ADULT *KAILOVIAN FEMALE* CURRENTLY BEING RAVAGED BY NO LESS THAN *NINETY-EIGHT EARTH-BORNE MICROBES* AGAINST WHICH SHE HAS NO DEFENSE.

THIS *OTHER* THING IS AN INDEPENDENT FRAGMENT OF THE KLYNTAR SYMBIOTIC SPECIES...FAKING IT FOR ATTENTION.

GLAAHHHHHH!

IF IT ACCELERATES YOUR PROCESSING... "WHEATCAKES"?

=SIGH= FREAKIN' WEBS AND HIS *CODE WORD*... I'LL PREP TWO MED-BAYS--

BLEARGH!

THREE.

MIRA QUIÉN SE APARECE POR AQUÍ...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, BUT...CONTEXT CLUES.

RIC, CAN I PLEASE COME IN AND--

MR. BERNAL, AND NO. I DON'T THINK YOU CAN. THIS IS *MY* HOUSE.

I KNOW YOU'RE TRYING TO PROTECT HER, BUT--

GOODBYE, PETER.

WAIT! PLEASE!

PLEASE... YOU DON'T REALLY KNOW ME--

THAT'S THE PROBLEM. I *DO*. I'VE HAD PEOPLE JUST LIKE YOU IN MY LIFE.

SOMEONE WHO TAKES. THEN LEAVES...AND WHEN THINGS GET *HARD*, COMES BACK TO TAKE SOME MORE.

ENOUGH.

MAYBE...

BUT *SHE* NEEDS TO DECIDE THAT, DOESN'T SHE?

WAS THAT THE *PHARMACY?*

I TOLD THEM NOT TO DROP OFF MY PRESCRIPTION. I HARDLY NEED PAINKILLERS AT ALL...

AND I AM PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF...

OH.

I'LL BE IN THE KITCHEN.

ONE *SHOUT* AWAY.

YOU'RE HURT?

WHEN DID YOU GET HURT?

I...I'M SORRY.

I'M SO SORRY I WASN'T HERE.

THERE HE IS.

TOOK YOUR SWEET TIME, DIDN'T YOU?

WELCOME BACK, PETER.

WELCOME HOME.

NEXT:
DEATH SPIRAL!

THE SPIDER'S WEB

ASSISTANT EDITOR: **KAITLYN LINDTVEDT**
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: **TOM GRONEMAN**
EDITOR: **NICK LOWE**

HEY WEB-HEADS!

Ol' teary-eyed Nick Lowe here again. Sixty-three-and-a-half years later and Aunt May is STILL THE BEST! As far as I'm concerned, she's the reason Mother's Day is in May. This run has been so emotional thanks to how Joe Kelly (and Pepe Larraz and JRJR and Nathan Stockman in this issue) serves up Aunt May's storyline. Just wow. We are now solidly back on earth both issues every month. We're sad to see the space adventure end, but the effects of it will be felt for a long time!

Hey Web-Heads,

Just finished reading ASM #17--once again another killer issue by the team of Pepe Larraz and Joe Kelly. I'm happy to learn just a little more about Hellgate. I don't know why I didn't think he would be an alien--I was imagining some sort of Viking god or demigod long since forgotten or locked away. It's nice to know more about him, although I'm not nearly as excited at the fact that Peter is coming home at last. I'm very interested to see how Peter will interact with a Norman Osborn trying to live up to the standards of Spider-Man. I wonder if Aunt May will get to have her talk with Peter or if she is too busy hanging out with her new boyfriend, whom I like to call "Big Rick," haha. Whatever happens, I'm excited for more issues of my favorite comic book to come out! Reading SPIDER-MAN makes me smile as I'm missing my family this holiday season while on deployment with the Army in South Korea. Merry Christmas to everyone working at Marvel and have a Happy New Year!!

Keep Thwipping,

Matt Roberts
Fort Carson, CO

Always good to get your missives from Fort Carson, Matt. Thank you for your service as always! Whether Hellgate is an alien depends on your definition of the word! Chew on THAT a little. Hope you liked the latest developments with May and Big Rick!

Nick,

Well, you and the team have done it. It would be easy to brush off Norman's turn as Spider-Man as Superior Spidey 2.0, but Kelly has proved with this issue that this is no simple rehash. Where Otto was trying to prove his superiority, Norman realizes he has so much to live up to, making this a very compelling arc. Where Otto had disdain, Norman finally understands Peter's heroism and sacrifice, and it makes all the difference in the world. I'm actually empathizing with the greatest Marvel villain of all time!

Furthermore, I'm enjoying May's gumption and the quiet strength it takes for her to wait for her nephew to come to her when he's ready. Ben as Peter is drawing me in too. There are also echoes of Superior here, but Ben feels the pain of the accomplishments he's being credited with in a far different way than Peter when he finally came back to his own body. And then we top it off with Romita Jr. and Hanna's visuals with Menyz's colors?!?! How did we get so lucky?

Keep your web-cartridges full!

Javi Trujillo
Austin, TX

Another letters-page regular visits us again this issue. Hi, Javi! Really glad for everyone else to have finally read ASM #16 and #18, which made my heart soar at each stage.

Web-Spinners,

The current "Space-Spidey" arc is one of the best arcs I've read in some time. And I've read a few in my 55-plus-year-long habit. When Pete finally returns to Earth, I'm hoping his current crew will remain with him. And if not all of them, at least keep Raelith around for a while. In fact, she's got my vote for becoming Pete's permanent (well, as permanent as you can get in the comics) love interest. Not that you asked, but who needs MJ, Felicia, or Shay when you've got Rae around? The whole beautifully executed sequence of her standing and fighting back had me on the edge of my seat.

And I've been on the edge of my seat quite a few times since reading my first issue of AMAZING. **[See the blue box for the rest of the story!]**

As always, Make Mine Marvel,

Rob Shelor, P.M.M., F.F.F.
Roanoke, VA

It's a real ASM letters-page regulars-fest here. Really glad Rae resonates with you like she resonates with us. You've only seen the tip of her iceberg, and we've got big plans for Raelith the Wretched, as you may guess from here.

Hey Spidey-Office!

This is my first year reading comics (at the ripe old age of 32), and it took a while, but with issue #17, I'm officially caught up and suffering the biweekly wait with all the other Web-Heads. And I just had to write in to say that, between the writing and the art, I've felt spoiled having this be my first Spidey ongoing.

The split stories work so beautifully together. Norman's POV exemplifies everything it takes to be Spider-Man in a way Peter's POV just doesn't, because he always takes who he is for granted. Even his villains know this isn't the real Spidey, because Peter is that special! The scene where Norman shouts at Tombstone, "My world is pain!" and Tombstone responds, "Yeah... you ain't him," says so much about Peter, and that's just brilliant writing!

And then in space, there's Peter showing that he will always take up this burden of responsibility. I love that the flashbacks show that he wasn't always like this--he's worked to become the kind of person who makes the hard choices. I've been thinking a lot about the phrase "get back up," how it represents so much of what it means to be Spider-Man, so I loved that it came full circle in #17 with Peter begging Raelith to get up. There's something, too, in the juxtaposition of Norman standing over Tombstone with his blood on his hands and Peter standing next to Raelith trying to get her to stand up. Ugh, so good!

Anyway, I could go on and on, so thank you, Team Spidey, for making my first Spidey story so worth gushing over!

C. James

Thanks for writing, C. You are living proof that one's never too old to start reading comics. This thoughtful letter was such a moving missive! THANK YOU!

For the REST of you wonderful Web-Heads, you don't have to wait two weeks for your next Spider-fix! NEXT WEEK, we put out AMAZING SPIDER-MAN/VENOM: DEATH SPIRAL #1, written by the terrific trio of JOE KELLY, AL EWING, and CHARLES SOULE, and with art by JESÚS SAIZ and MATT HOLLINGSWORTH. Do I need to tell you that Joe Caramagna is lettering it? YOU KNOW THAT'S THE TRUTH! What I DO need to tell you is that we've been hinting at and building to this story here in ASM over in ALL-NEW VENOM and EDDIE BROCK: CARNAGE, and the story road you're about to get on is a THRILLING one!!! Do not miss DEATH SPIRAL #1, and then we'll see you the week after for ED McGUINNESS' triumphant return in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #23!!!

Keep Thwippin'!

Nick Lowe

Issue #56 was the first one I got off the spinner rack. Good ol' Ock. Nothing like taking advantage of memory loss to cement your title of villain. I remember my mom buying this issue for me on one of our weekly shopping trips. It was standard procedure to bribe the little kid with a "funny" book and keep him behaved and quiet while his mother and older sister looked at clothes and other boring stuff. She helped start my addiction to our favorite Wall-Crawler. Such an amazing mom. (Heh. "Amazing.")

--Rob Shelor

Email us at **SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM** and mark your messages **"Okay to Print"** for a chance to see them answered in future issues!

SPIDERS & SYMBIOTES

THE LOWE-DOWN

HEY, WEB-HEADS!

It's cold outside, but things are hotter than ever in the Spider-Office! Worlds collide in **PLANET OF THE APES VS. FANTASTIC FOUR**, where **JOSH TRUJILLO** and **ANDREA DI VITO** bring the First Family into the unknown--but it's an unknown that WE know (and love) very well! Add a new **PREDATOR** mini called **BLOODSHED** by **JORDAN MORRIS** and **RUAIRÍ COLEMAN** to fill the *Badlands*-shaped hole in my heart? SIGN ME UP! **G. WILLOW WILSON** and **GLEB MELNIKOV** kick off the bombastic second arc of **BLACK CAT**, where Felicia is reunited with MARY JANE and doesn't know that MJ's also VENOM!!! And because Venom can't stand still, this month starts one of the biggest Spider-Stories ever with **ASM/VENOM: DEATH SPIRAL #1**! Spidey, Venom, and Carnage come crashing back together in what feels like a culmination of the story that started in ASM #300! Glad I wore layers today because I'm sweating in this heat!

Keep Thwippin',
Nick Lowe
Spider-Editor

DEATH SPIRAL

THIS MONTH'S HOST

NAME: Phillip Kennedy Johnson

TITLE: Writer

WORKS ON:
THE INCREDIBLE HULK,
DUNGEONS OF DOOM

WHO IS YOUR IRL SUPER HERO?

Joe Kubert, Jim Henson, Dizzy Gillespie. Artists who devoted their lives to art and to education, both sacred professions.

WHICH SPIDER-MAN VILLAIN DO YOU MOST RESONATE WITH?

The Lizard! In trying to make himself better, he loses his own humanity and ends up practically destroying himself. I get it, bro.

IF YOU COULD GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF ONE PIECE OF ADVICE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Visualize exactly who you want to be, dedicate some time every day toward those goals, and don't let short-term crises pull you off the path. Your habits are who you are.

NEED YOUR SPIDER-FIX WHILE YOU WAIT FOR NEXT ISSUE?

THWIP-LIST

- ❑ ALL-NEW SPIDER-GWEN: THE GHOST-SPIDER #7

- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #21
- ❑ PLANET OF THE APES VS. FANTASTIC FOUR #1
- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: TORN #5
- ❑ BLACK CAT #7
- ❑ PLANET SHE-HULK #4
- ❑ SPIDER-MAN NOIR #5
- ❑ VENOM #254
- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #22
- ❑ DUNGEONS OF DOOM #2
- ❑ KNULL #2
- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN/VENOM: DEATH SPIRAL #1

- ❑ HULK: SMASH EVERYTHING #3
- ❑ INFERNAL HULK #4
- ❑ MARVEL KNIGHTS: PUNISHER #4
- ❑ PREDATOR: BLOODSHED #1

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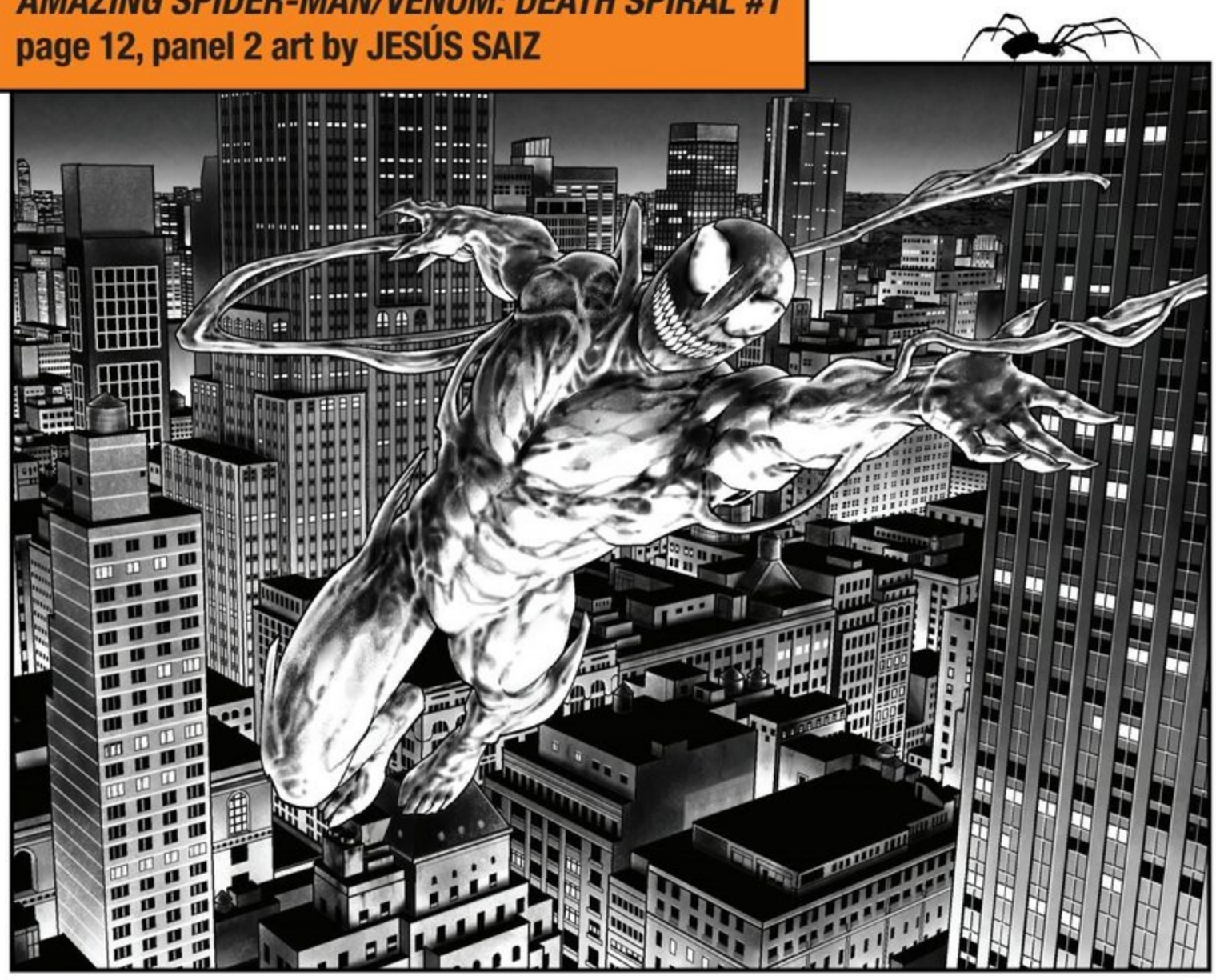
PANEL OF THE MONTH:

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN/VENOM: DEATH SPIRAL #1
page 12, panel 2 art by JESÚS SAIZ



GAMMA CORNER

IS HE SPIDER, OR IS HE SYMBIOTE...OR IS HE NEITHER?

It's a battle with the past this month as lots of things come back to haunt our Hulks! In **INFERNAL HULK #4**, Hulk takes it a little too literally as he wrestles with all his past personas deep in the Hulkscape!

Meanwhile, in **PLANET SHE-HULK #4** out in space, his cousin She-Hulk is throwing down with her ex(?)-boyfriend Jack of Hearts! They used to be so happy!

What could suck more than that, you ask? How about fighting a LITERAL BLACK HOLE? Which is what Hulk is doing in **HULK: SMASH EVERYTHING #3**!

HULK: SMASH EVERYTHING #3
On sale 2/25

EDGE OF THE VARIANT-VERSE

We in the Spider-Office are no stranger to variants--we've got a Spider-Verse full of 'em. It's hard to narrow it down, but check out our favorite variant cover of the month.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN/VENOM: DEATH SPIRAL #1
Variant Covers by SKAN, STONEHOUSE & DAVE RAPOZA

NEXT:

THE NEXT BIG SPIDER-MAN CROSSOVER EVENT STARTS THIS FEBRUARY!!!